

# NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MARKEY CALLS FOR REDOUBLING OF EFFORT TO PREVENT POLLUTION, OPPOSITION TO BUSH ADMINISTRATION ROLLBACKS ON EARTH DAY**

Washington, D. C. – Today, Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior Democrat on the Energy and Commerce and Resources Committees, made the following statement on the occasion of Earth Day.

“Today is Earth Day, a time to consider the health of the environment and recognize the environment’s impact on human health and well-being. We have made strides in cleaning up pollution since the first Earth Day in 1970, but there is still much to be done.”

“But instead of strengthening our environmental laws, the Bush Administration is rolling them back at the request of the corporate polluters. For an Administration that prides itself on setting non-negotiable deadlines for the testing of children, it is appalling how easily it allows corporations to pass their environmental exams by just lowering the standards and giving everyone as much time as they like. This double-standard ends up in the air and water and hurts every American child.”

“And when the Bush Administration doesn’t rollback environmental laws, it proposes to exempt parts of the Federal Government from them. Yesterday, the Department of Defense came before the Energy and Commerce Committee to propose legislation that would exempt them from critical parts of the Clean Air Act and the two laws that govern hazardous wastes and Superfund sites. The DOD – responsible for 130 Superfund sites across the nation – is saying to the American people “trust us” when it comes to environmental compliance on military facilities.”

“But we all know that pollution is pollution. An asthmatic child can’t tell the difference between military and civilian pollution, offshore pollution or home-grown pollution -- only that there is too much smog in the air. There is no such thing as ‘patriotic pollution’.”

“Now is not the time to reduce our efforts to clean up the world around us, but to redouble our efforts to ensure clean air, water and land for all Americans every Earth Day, and all those non-Earth Days in between.”

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